ORIGINAL

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Adopt Regulations for Automatic Vehicle Monitoring Systems	)	PR Docket No. 93-61
	)	RM-8013
	)	

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF THE ALARM INDUSTRY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Alarm Industry Communications Committee (AICC), by its attorney, hereby submits its comments in response to the FCC's April 9, 1993 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)[1] in the above captioned proceeding. For the reasons set forth below, AICC does not oppose the establishment of a permanent Automatic Vehicle Monitoring (AVM) regulatory scheme. Vehicle monitoring is a natural extension of the protection services provided by the alarm industry. However, AICC must oppose the Commission's proposal to significantly expand the possible uses of the 902-928 MHz band so as to include high powered messaging services. Such action would significantly disrupt the ability of the alarm industry to provide needed protection to both individuals and businesses that rely on low powered devices in this band for alarm signalling.

[1] FCC 93-141, 58 Fed. Reg. 21276 (April 20, 1993).

In support of these comments, the following is shown:

I. **Background and Statement of Interest**

The above captioned proceeding proposes to create permanent regulations for the operation of AVM systems, which have been capable of operating under interim regulations since 1974. However, the Commission's proposal would rename the AVM service as the Location and Monitoring Service (LMS), which is defined as "the use of non-voice signalling methods from and to radio units to make known the location of such units. LMS systems may also transmit and receive status and instructional messages related to the units involved." NPRM at para. 9. Thus, the NPRM would restructure the possible uses of the AVM frequencies to allow the location of any object, animate or inanimate; would allow licensees to provide such service on a private carrier basis; and would appear to allow messaging services to be provided over the frequencies, even if the messages did not relate directly to the locating of the monitored object. See NPRM at footnote 19. The current AVM operations, and the proposed LMS systems, will operate in the same band (902-928 MHz) in which the Commission has allowed low powered radio device operations on an unlicensed basis, pursuant to Part 15 of its Rules.

AICC is a committee of the Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA), and is charged with monitoring developments at the federal level affecting the ability of the alarm industry to utilize telecommunications technology in providing its valuable protection services to the public. CSAA represents the vast majority of

entities providing central station alarm security protection. In addition, the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA) is represented on AICC. Thus, the Committee can reliably speak for a majority of the alarm industry. The entities represented on AICC are dedicated to providing such services as the alarming of businesses and individual dwellings, to protect both commercial users and consumers against fire and burglary. More recently, its members have expanded their services to include medical alert protection.

The alarm industry utilizes unlicensed, low power Part 15 devices for alarming premises, especially where the use of wiring is impractical or undesirable. Generally, these low power devices

Just as important are the personal protection services which are now being rendered by the alarm industry. In particular, Part 15 radios are used in medical alert devices, so that the elderly, infirm and disabled can reach assistance merely by pressing a button, in the event of a medical emergency. Alarm companies can now also furnish their customers with a small Part 15 radio device known as the "panic button", which allows the individual to summon the police by simply pressing a button that he or she carries. This device sends a special signal to the central station radio or other link to the alarm company, which alerts its personnel that a life threatening situation is at hand (due to, e.g., a break-in). The police are immediately dispatched in response to a panic button alert. Therefore, customers who find themselves unable to reach a telephone or complete a call in the event of a break-in can summon immediate help.

The use of Part 15 devices in alarm systems is now widespread. Based on information compiled by the Security Industry Association, AICC estimates that approximately 16% of the 900,000 residential alarm systems installed in the United States in 1991 included wireless Part 15 links. Likewise, 11% of the 750,000 commercial systems installed in 1991 included Part 15 radios. All told, approximately 15,000,000 alarm systems have been installed in the

A growing number of these links operate in the 902-928 MHz band, and this trend is continuing because of the development of spread spectrum radio systems in this frequency range. Spread spectrum systems are less likely to cause interference to other users, and generally less susceptible to interference as well. However, a high powered signal in the middle of the bandwidth utilized by the spread spectrum signal can cause interference to this technology. AICC is informed by the manufacturers of Part 15 alarm devices that the 300 watt power which will be allowed for AVM/LMS operations under the proposed rules would easily be a strong enough signal to disrupt the alarm operations. This is of obvious concern to the alarm industry as well as the public. Many Part 15 devices (such as cordless telephones and remote television controls) can be considered "luxuries." Still others (such as garage door openers) have a quasi-safety function.[2] However, Part 15 devices utilized by the alarm industry are by definition an integral part of a service protecting the lives and property of both individuals and businesses. When an alarm signal is transmitted over these devices, it means that someone is in danger and/or medical distress.

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[2] A garage door opener allows its user to enter their garage, and secure the garage door behind them, without having to leave the safety of their car. The opener also often allows its user to turn on the garage and other lights from their car. This frustrates what would otherwise be a window of opportunity for a prospective attacker.

II. On Balance, the Proposed Expansion of AVM will Disrupt More Valuable Uses of the Spectrum than it will Facilitate.

The alarm industry has taken a hard look at the Commission's proposal for LMS. AICC considered potential uses of radios that could be operated as LMS systems, including vehicle and object tracking, and locator devices for security guards. However, after examining the proposal in detail, AICC finds that on the whole, the proposed expansion of AVM will hinder the ability of the alarm industry to provide vital security services. Therefore, AICC must oppose the creation of the LMS.

The Part 15 devices currently utilized by the alarm industry operate on a secondary basis, and thus are already theoretically subject to interference. However, Part 15 manufacturers have been able to design their systems to avoid significant interference to other Part 15 devices. Moreover, while Part 15 devices must protect, and accept interference from, industrial, scientific and medical ("ISM") equipment, the location of such equipment is

systems will no longer be restricted to roadways. Moreover, the Commission proposes to allow LMS systems to "transmit and receive status and instructional messages related to the units involved." Since this transmission of additional information does not have to be "directly related to locating an object" (NPRM at footnote 19)

bands, using other technologies. Indeed, the Commission has taken regulatory measures which may soon saturate the industry with emerging technologies, including PCS and advanced narrowband messaging, which can provide the type of location monitoring and messaging service proposed for LMS. Moreover, existing technologies are capable of providing messaging and location identification, such as cellular and satellite.

2. LMS will facilitate the use of a system (Teletrac) which may be too fragile to be compatible with existing 902-928 MHz band users.

3. LMS will be spectrally inefficient when weighed against the numbers and types of other uses which are currently being made of the 902-928 MHz band (including advanced cordless telephones, as well as alarm systems), which more valuable uses will be displaced.

4. LMS will strand tremendous investment made in the development of Part 15 devices for both industry and consumer application, in response to the Commission's invitation to do so. As the Commission has encouraged the development of low power radios in liberalizing its Part 15 Rules in recent years, interested industries and manufacturers have spent billions of dollars investing in research, development, manufacturing and marketing of Part 15 devices. Many of these devices have revolutionized our lifestyles. The Commission would now introduce into the radio environment users that can significantly disrupt Part 15 operations, or demand that they do not operate because of interference to the higher powered operation. It is adverse to the

public interest to strand investment and jeopardize the utility of the 902-928 MHz band for purposes of satisfying a known demand for low power devices.

5. The creation of LMS will deprive the alarm industry, and therefore the public, of valuable alarm services capabilities. Some of these services can be replaced with hard wiring, but only at great expense to the users of the alarm protection, as well as disruption of their businesses and/or personal lives. Other services (such as medical alert and panic button services) cannot be so easily replaced. Thus, lives may be potentially in danger. When balancing the loss of lives against the benefits of introducing yet another messaging service that could be provided in other bands or with other technologies, the scale tips easily in favor of the protection of lives.

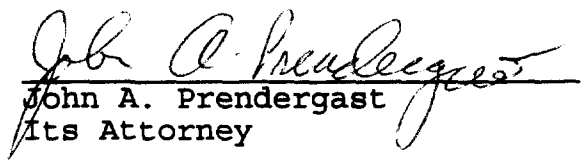
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, AICC respectfully requests that the Commission preserve the status quo ante, by abandoning its proposed creation of LMS, or any other proposed expanded use of AVM operations. The interim rules should be adopted on a permanent basis without creating such potential for disruption of Part 15 operations. Moreover, AICC has consulted with members of the "Part 15 Coalition" (which is made up of Part 15 device manufacturers), and agrees with their position that the Commission should reduce the allotted spectrum for AVM systems from 8 MHz to 4 MHz. All available evidence indicates that 4 MHz is more than adequate to accommodate AVM systems. Finally, in the event that the Commission

nonetheless adopts its proposal to expand the possible use of AVM systems, it should eliminate or severely restrict its proposal to allow messaging over such systems.

Respectfully submitted,

THE ALARM INDUSTRY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

By: 
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